

Federal Privacy Laws

Online Privacy

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) - 15 U.S. Code section 6501 and following.

The Act's goal is to place parents in control over what information is collected from their children online. With limited exceptions, the related FTC Rule requires operators of commercial websites and online services to provide notice and get a parent's consent before collecting personal information from children under 13. For more information, see the FTC's COPPA Web site:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/kidzprivacy/index.html>

Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1984 - 18 U.S. Code section 1030.

This law makes unauthorized access to "protected computers" illegal. Protected computers include U.S. government computers, computers used in interstate commerce and computers used by financial institutions. It also prohibits trafficking in computer passwords and damaging a protected computer.

Computer Matching & Privacy Protection Act of 1988 & Amendments of 1990 - 5 U.S. Code 552a (a)(8)-(13), (3)(12), (o), (p), (q), (r), & (u).

This law amends the federal Privacy Act of 1974 to set requirements that federal agencies must follow when matching information on individuals with information held by other federal, state or local agencies.